


COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy is informed by the Christian values which are the basis for all of CDAT's work and any actions taken under this policy will reflect this.

'Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right'

Psalm 106:3

School/Academy Name: St Matthew's C of E Primary

Date agreed by LGB	Review Date	Signed Chair of LGB
Summer 17	Summer 21	

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Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the governors and principal with assistance from the teacher coordinating collective worship and the incumbent. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.

The right of withdrawal

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus where it states 'Our school holds a daily act of worship and visitors regularly come into school to take part in assemblies. Parents have the right to withdraw children from assemblies if they wish'

If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Aims and Objectives

At St Matthew's C of E Primary School, we seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children will be helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship. Our aim is to lead worship that will be accessible to all including those of other faiths or none.

Our central aims of collective worship, as detailed in the Diocesan guideline, are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead all of our school community to the place where they can make an informed choice about their relationship with Jesus.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of no faith so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate in and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith, reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g.

love, thankfulness, compassion) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.

- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary, within our daily act of collective worship, we will:

- provide opportunities for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including more difficult experiences of life;
- ensure that our worship is relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- create an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.
- give opportunities for groups of children to take the lead.

(Adapted from the *National Society Web site, 2007*)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the principal, the worship co-ordinator and Governors of the Faith and Community Committee. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback

- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the Principal and the incumbent, David Brewster will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the school improvement plan and collective worship action plan.

Review

The principal, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Principal and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At St Matthew's CE Primary, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator. She plans themes together with the incumbent, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the principal.

Conclusion

At St Matthew's CE Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at St Matthew's CE Primary school we seek to ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter;

Worship Co-ordinator, Mrs Jackie Band

